

Applicants' Reply To The Rejection
Of Claims 1-51 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by LaJoie. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

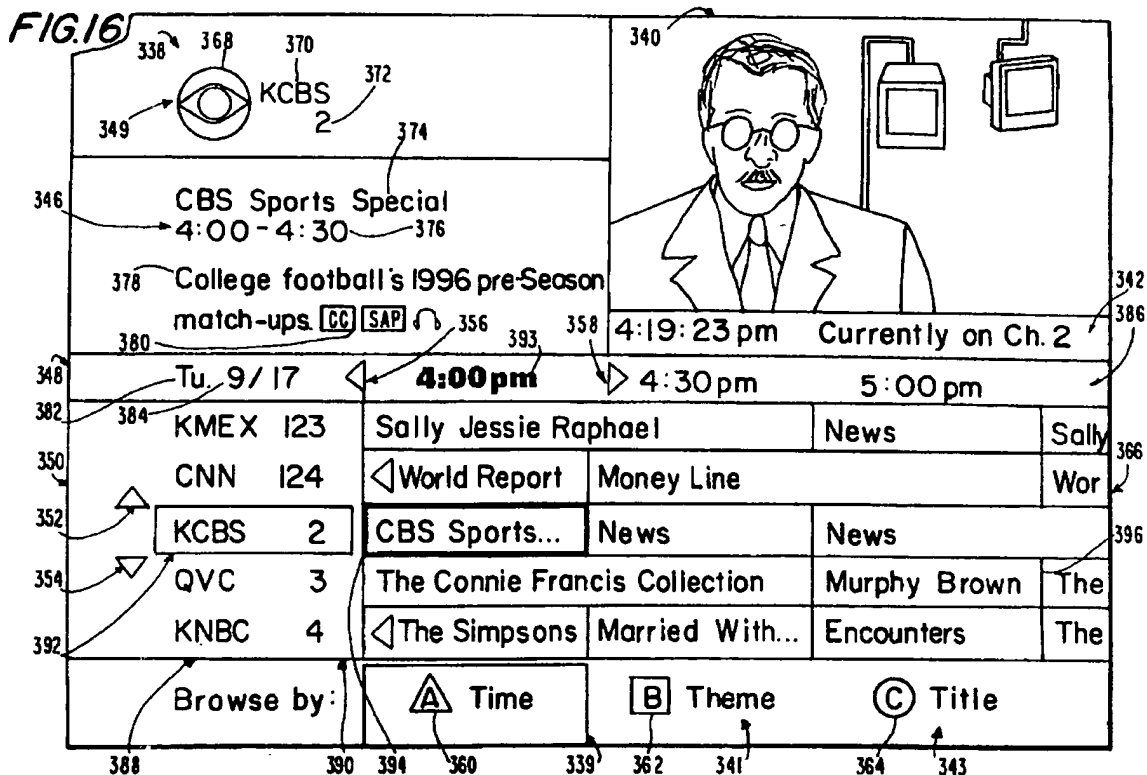
As set forth in independent claims 1, 13, 25, 37, 42, and 47, applicants' invention is directed towards an interactive television program guide that simultaneously displays (a) a program list that contains multiple program listings, that only contains program listings of programs that are currently being broadcast, and that has a highlight region for highlighting a given one of the program listings, (b) a video window that contains an unobstructed view of a television program, and (c) a detailed program description of the highlighted program listing. The user is allowed to position the highlight region only among the program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast. In the case of independent claims 1, 13, and 25, when the highlight region is positioned on a new program listing, the detailed program description is automatically updated to correspond to the new program listing while the television program in the video window is unchanged. In the case of independent claims 37, 42, and 47, when the highlight region is positioned on a new program listing, the detailed program description and the television program in the video window are automatically updated to correspond to the new program listing.

This provides a simplified and streamlined program guide display by only displaying programs that are currently being broadcast. By not listing program information for future programs, the user is presented with a program list that is not cluttered (see applicants' specification, page 14, lines 5-22).

LaJoie discloses a cable television system with an interactive program guide. The interactive program guide simultaneously displays (a) a navigable program grid that contains programs that are currently being broadcast, programs that have been broadcast earlier, and programs that will be broadcast in the future (b) a program cursor for highlighting any one of the programs in the program grid, (c) a program viewing window, and (d) a highlighted program summary which includes a brief description (see column 23, line 44 to column 24, line 15 of LaJoie). Through user navigation of the program cursor, the program summary is updated with information for the program highlighted by the program cursor.

The Examiner contends that LaJoie discloses displaying only programs currently being broadcast. Contrary to the Examiner's contention, programs other than those currently being broadcast are shown in FIG. 16 of LaJoie (see below). In FIG. 16, program listings for the 4:00-4:30, 4:30-5:00, and 5:00-5:30 time slots are displayed. Therefore, current programs are displayed with future programs. Accordingly, LaJoie cannot be

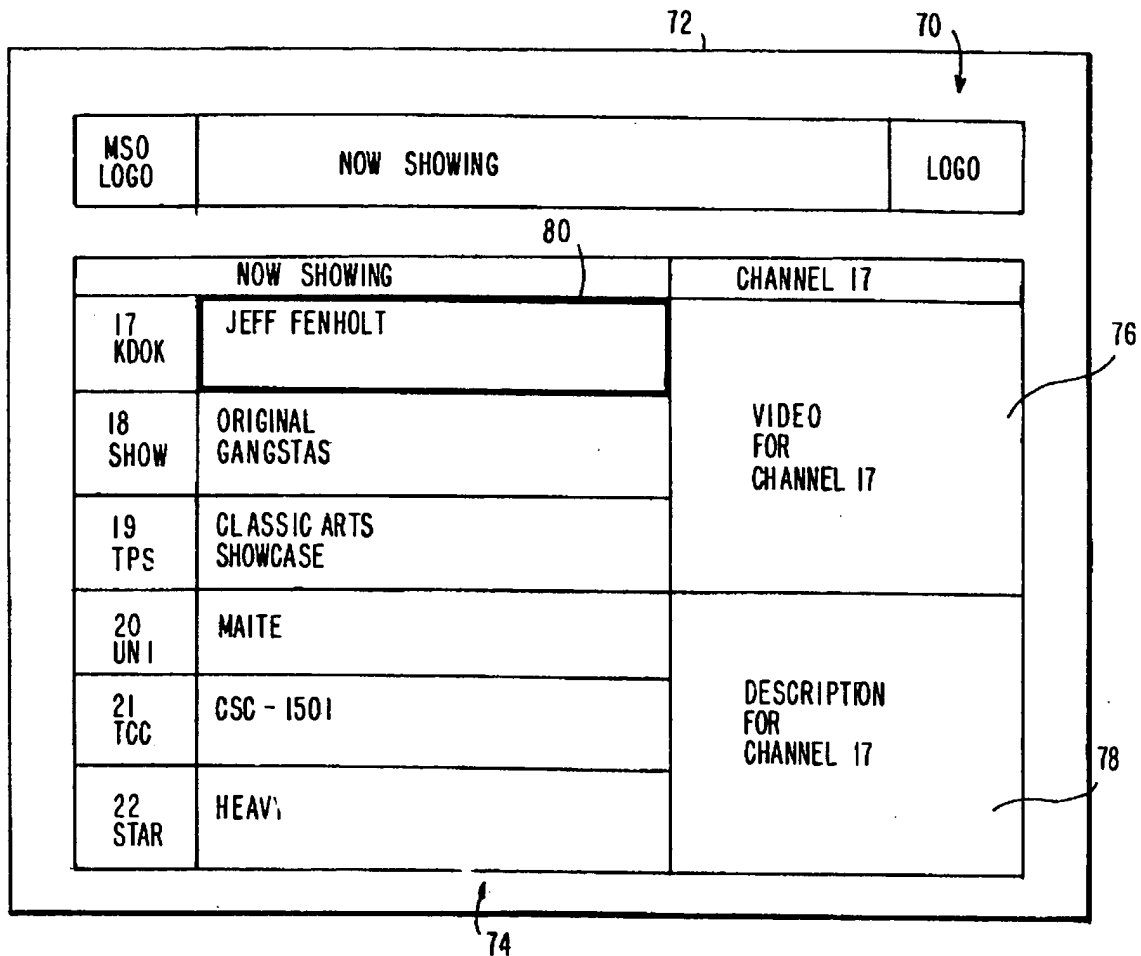
read in such a way as to show limiting the display only to programs that are currently being broadcast.



LaJoie's FIG. 16

Applicants' invention, as defined by the independent claims, displays a program list that only contains programs that are currently being broadcast. This is exemplified by applicants' FIG. 5. FIG. 5 shows only one column of programs. These programs are under the heading "Now Showing." There are no columns shown for other time slots because applicants' invention

only includes programs that are "Now Showing" (i.e., currently being broadcast).



Applicants' FIG. 5

The Examiner further contends that LaJoie shows the user only being able to navigate the highlight region among programs that are currently being broadcast. Contrary to the Examiner's contention, the disclosure of LaJoie outlines exactly the opposite to be true. In the description of FIG. 16, LaJoie states, "As the user presses left and right arrow keys 128, times 386 in date and time bar 348 and program cells 396 in grid 366

scroll right and left, respectively" (see column 24, lines 59-62). Notice in FIG. 16 of LaJoie, arrows 356 and 358 indicate that the user can advance the display to earlier or later listings than what is currently being broadcast. Also notice that FIG. 16 shows programs that will be broadcast in the 4:30-5:00 and 5:00-5:30 time slots, yet some of those programs are not currently being broadcast. It is evident from FIG. 16 that LaJoie allows the user to highlight both programs currently being broadcast (e.g., "Sally Jessie Raphael," "CBS Sports," and "The Connie Francis Collection") and not currently being broadcast (e.g., "Money Line," "News," and "Murphy Brown"). Clearly, the Examiner's contention that LaJoie somehow limits the user to highlight only programs currently being broadcast is shown to be false by FIG. 16 and the detailed description of FIG. 16.

In contrast, applicants' invention, as defined by the independent claims, allows a user to position the highlight region only among programs that are currently being broadcast. This ability to only position the highlight region among programs that are currently being broadcast is clearly exemplified by FIG. 5. In FIG. 5, applicants' invention is shown only containing programs that are "Now Showing," therefore the user can only highlight programs that are currently being broadcast. No other programs are accessible.

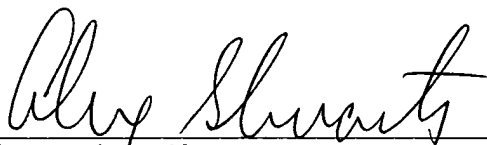
Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that LaJoie fails to disclose or suggest (a) displaying a program list that

only contains program listings of programs that are currently being broadcast and (b) allowing a user to position a highlight region only among program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast as specified in claims 1, 13, 25, 37, 42, and 47. Therefore, independent claims 1, 13, 25, 37, 42, and 47 and dependent claims 2-12, 14-24, 26-36, 38-41, 43-46, and 48-51 are allowable over LaJoie, and applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-51 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-51 are in condition for allowance. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

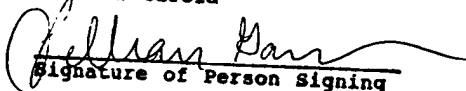


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